GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:962
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2001
IMPORT OF LIFE SAVING DRUGS
SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a): the total value of life saving drugs imported during each of the last three years, till date;

(b) the names of the companies from which these drugs have been imported; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to produce these drugs in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS(SHRI S. B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) There is no classification of drugs as life saving or otherwise either in the Drug Policy or in the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995. The total value of drugs & medicines imported during each of the last three years is as below:

(Rs.in lakhs)

Item/Year	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
Import of Medicinal & Pharmaceutical products	144711.68	161519.91	150230.30

Source: Foreign Trade Statistics of India, March 2000, DGCIS, Ministry of Commerce.

(b) Import of drugs is not monitored companywise.

(c) The Drug Policy is directed towards ensuring abundant availability of drugs at reasonable prices.In this direction, in 1999 those drugs, which were exclusively reserved for public sector undertakings have been de-reserved. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the Pharmaceutical sector has been liberalized by permitting upto 74% FDI under the automatic route.